

SITUATION REPORT NO. 16
INCIDENT NO. 2001- 005
DATE: April 20, 2001 TIME: 3:00 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring Flooding.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: The Red River at Wahpeton measured 14.38 feet today, a 0.19-foot decrease during the past 24 hours. The river at Fargo measured 32.08 feet, a 0.93-foot decrease during the past 24 hours. The level at Grand Forks measured 43.11 feet, a 0.35-foot decrease. Meanwhile, the river at Drayton appears to be at or near crest, measuring 41.33 feet, a 0.01-foot increase during the past 24 hours. At Pembina, the river was at 48.65 feet, a 0.35-foot increase during the past 24 hours. A river crest of 49.5 feet is expected on April 22.

The N.D. Department of Transportation (DOT) has reopened U.S. Highway 81, between Columbia and Bacon Roads. Three locations on state highways remain closed because of floodwaters: N.D. Highway 66, mile marker 138 to the Red River; N.D. Highway 5, mile marker 335 to the Red River; and N.D. Highway 11, from Fairmount to the Red River. Highways with water on the roadways and where traffic is allowed include four locations: N.D. Highway 54, from I-29 to Oslo; N.D. Highway 14, approximately 4.5 miles south of Anamoose; N.D. Highway 36 at mile marker 34, four miles west of Tuttle; and N.D. Highway 200, mile marker 257, west of Chaseley. DOT officials anticipate that floodwaters may soon inundate N.D. Highway 3 at mile marker 132.

A River Flood Statement, issued by the National Weather Service (NWS), indicates that precipitation forecasted for this weekend may cause the Wild Rice, Maple and Sheyenne Rivers to rise. The Wild Rice River at Abercrombie measured 11.3 feet today; flood stage is 10 feet. A five-day forecast indicates the river will rise to 13.2 feet by April 25. The Sheyenne River at Harwood, where the flood stage is 884 feet, the river level measured 888.8 feet and was expected to rise to 884 feet by April 25. At Kindred, where the flood stage is 16 feet, the river level measured 14 feet and was expected to rise to 18 feet by April 25. At Lisbon, the Sheyenne is expected to remain above flood stage for the next several days. At West Fargo, where the flood stage is 16.5 feet, the river level measured 18.1 feet and was expected to rise to 19.1 feet by April 25. Maple River at Enderlin and Mapleton, where flood stage is nine feet, measured 6.5 feet today at both locations. The five-day forecast indicates that the river will rise to 8.2 feet by April 25.

Snowmelt in Canada, as well as forecasted precipitation, may cause the Pembina River to rise at Walhalla and Neche. The river at Walhalla measured 9.6 feet today; flood stage is 11 feet. The river is forecast to continue a slow rise and remain steady around 10 feet. The river at Neche measured 14.8 feet; flood stage is 18 feet. The river is expected to crest at 19 to 20 feet on April 24-25.

Cass County officials report that severe damage to highways has become evident as floodwaters recede. Seven county road sites remain closed. In the city of Fargo, six road sites and three bridges remain closed.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: First Link of Cass County has organized a one-day cleanup on April 28.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Cass County officials have agreed to assist residents with the cleanup of sand and sandbags. Cleanup efforts will begin April 23 for Fargo and Cass Counties. The city of Fargo planned to end 24-hour operations for its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at 4:30 p.m. April 20. City officials will maintain several pumps throughout Fargo. All lift stations in the city are functioning properly.

The Adjutant General and the State Director of North Dakota Emergency Management conducted an aerial surveillance on April 19 of northeast North Dakota to include Devils Lake, the Pembina River, from Walhalla to Pembina, and the Red River, from Pembina to Drayton. They met with local officials in Drayton to review protective measures that the community had taken along the Red River. The N.D. Civil Air Patrol provided the airplane and pilot.

The city of Anamoose and McHenry County have issued emergency declarations.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No additional requests have been received.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: Appropriate state and local emergency operations plans have been implemented.

Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director